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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,999	06/24/2003	Tetsuya Gorohata	116339	9099
25944	7590	09/14/2004	EXAMINER PHAN, THIEM D	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			ART UNIT 3729	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/601,999	Applicant(s) GOROHATA ET AL. <i>CA</i>	
	Examiner Tim Phan	Art Unit 3729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

CA
CARL J. ARBES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/24/03 & 1/28/04
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicants' election with traverse of Group I (Claims 1-3) filed on 7/29/04 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that the Groups I and II are not independently and distinctly claimed, and the examiner has not established a prima facie case of serious burden of examination of the inventions of Groups I and II together. This is not found persuasive because the examiner has established a prima facie case having shown in the Office Action dated 6/30/04, that the invention of Group I has a separate classification (Class 29, subclass 596) from the invention of Group II (Class 31, subclass 179). Moreover, the inventions of Groups I and II each have a separate status in the art and clearly have a separate field of search.

In accordance with MPEP § 803, the examiner has demonstrated that the inventions of Groups I and II are each independent or distinct as claimed (indicated in the Office Action dated 6/30/04) and a serious burden would be placed on the examiner as discussed above. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore **made FINAL**.

Claims 4-7 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Applicants are required to cancel these nonelected Claims (4-7) or take other appropriate action.

An Office Action on the merits of Claims 1-3 now follows.

Specification

2. On page 1, before “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION”, insert:

“CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED DOCUMENT

The present application claims the benefit of Japanese Application, JAPAN 2002-184929, which was filed on 25th June 2002.”

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: “as set forth in claim 3” (Cf. page 7, line 20) and “as recited in claim 4” (Cf. page 9, line 7), the references are not proper as these claims can be cancelled or amended in future Office Actions.

Appropriate correction is required.

Title

3. The following title is suggested: “A Production Method of a Sequentially Joined-Segment Stator Coil of a Rotary Electric Machine”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al (US 6,249,956 B1) hereinafter '956.

The '956 teaches a method for manufacturing AC-generator's stator for vehicle, comprising:

- preparing segments (Cf. Fig. 2, 3) each including a head (Cf. Fig. 2, 32a) and a pair of legs (Cf. Fig. 2, 32b & 32c) extending straight in parallel to each other from ends of the head, the head being made up of a substantially U-shaped tip portion and a pair of head straight portions extending from the tip portion in alignment with the legs;
- preparing a plurality of rings (Cf. Fig. 3, 11 & 12) arrayed coaxially with each other to be rotatable relative to each other;
- holding the legs of each of the segments in the rings (Cf. Fig. 3, 111 & 122), respectively;
- catching the tip portion (Cf. Fig. 5, 32a) of the head of each of the segments through a pair of tines (Cf. Fig. 5, 16a) in abutment to the tip portion in a circumferential direction of said rings, the tines or cylindrical projection being installed on a head press member

(Cf. Fig. 4 or 5, 16) which is disposed away from said rings (Cf. Fig. 4, 11 & 12) in an axial direction of the rings and so designed as to be movable selectively to and away (Cf. Fig. 4 & 7, 16) from said rings (Cf. Fig. 4, 11 & 12);

- moving said head press member (Cf. Fig. 4, 16) toward said rings (Cf. Fig. 4, 11 & 12) and, at the same time, rotating said rings in opposite directions (Cf. Col. 6, lines 27 ff.) to spread the legs of each of the segments through a given angle, thereby twisting the head straight portions of each of the heads to form head slant portions;
- removing said segments from the rings and the tines and inserting said segments into slots in a stator core; and
- joining said segments (Cf. Fig. 13, 31d & 32d) in said stator core in sequence to complete a stator coil, wherein one of each pair of the tines or cylindrical projections (Cf. Fig. 5, 16a; col. 6, lines 17 ff.) which is urged inwardly of the rings by the tip portion of the head of a corresponding one of the segments has a first chamfered surface due to cylindrical shape to abut to the tip portion, and the other tine or cylindrical projection which is urged outward of the rings by the tip portion of the head of the corresponding one of the segments has a second chamfered surface due to cylindrical shape to abut to the tip portion; except for having the first chamfered surface being greater in area than the second chamfered surface.

It would have been a mere matter of design choice to have the first chamfered surface being greater in area than the second chamfered surface. It is known in the art that the tines

are cylindrically shaped (Cf. Fig. 5, 16a; Col. 6, lines 17 ff.) and have smaller cross-section area than the conductor-segment's area (Cf. Fig. 5, 31 & 32). The tines have a chamfered surface. It appears that the invention, with smaller sized and cylindrical tines would perform equally well in shaping the conductor-segments (Cf. Fig. 5, 31 & 32) without stressing their insulation film or layer.

Allowed

6. Claims 1 and 2 are allowed.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim Pham whose telephone number is 703-605-0707. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter VO can be reached on 703-308-1789. The fax phone number for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

TP

Tim Pham
Examiner
Art Unit 3729

CJA

CARL J. ARBES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tp
September 10, 2004